

Strategies for Correcting Grammar and Wording Errors in Your English Papers

1. Do not spend a lot of time fixing your grammar and wording errors until you are satisfied with the organization of your paper. Fixing errors before your organization is finished often means wasting your energy and time. You may fix errors that become irrelevant when you delete and/or add in words, phrases, sentences, and perhaps paragraphs.
2. Focus on identifying and fixing patterns of errors at a time. For many students, it is better not to try to correct all your grammar and wording errors at once; instead, it is better to focus on patterned errors that you know you likely have a lot of problems with. For example, if you know that you normally have a lot of problems with run-on sentence, fragments, and verb tenses, look for each of these patterned errors one at a time.
3. When you are correcting errors, make sure you are looking at the right part of the sentence. For example, when checking for run-on sentences and fragments, look for your subjects, verbs, direct objects, coordinating and subordinating conjunctions, etc.
4. Look beyond the sentence level when necessary. Remember that certain concepts, such as verb tenses and pronoun/antecedent agreement, require you to analyze preceding and following sentences and paragraphs. Be sure that you focus beyond the sentence level when correcting certain grammatical concepts.
5. Consider highlighting or circling the concept that you are focusing on. For example, you

